

IN THE CLAIMS:

*Please AMEND the claims to read as set forth in the following listing of the claims:*

CLAIMS

1. (original) Method for the preparation of a vaccine composition comprising recombinant or synthetic gelatin as a stabiliser, said method comprising the step of taking a measure so that the water content remains below 2 wt. % in order to prevent the recombinant gelatin from crystallisation during the lifetime of the composition.
2. (original) Method according to claim 1 in which the recombinant gelatin is homodisperse.
3. (presently amended) Method according to claim 1 or 2 in which the molecular weight of the recombinant gelatin is between 2.5 and 50 kD, preferably between 2.5 and 30 kD, and more preferably between 2.5 and 15 kD.
4. (presently amended) Method according to claim 1 any of the preceding claims in which the molecular weight of the recombinant gelatin is between 5 and 10 kD, preferably between 6 and 8 kD.
5. (presently amended) Method according to claim 1 any of the preceding claims, wherein the amino acid sequences of said gelatin are essentially similar.
6. (presently amended) Method according to claim 1 any of the preceding claims in which the lifetime is the time from production to the moment of use of the composition.

7. (presently amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ which the lifetime is the period of storage of the composition.
8. (presently amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ which the lifetime is at least 3 months, or at least 6 months, or at least one year or at least 2 years, or at least 7 years.
9. (presently amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ in which the measure that is taken so that the water content remains below 2 wt. % is providing the composition in a sufficiently moisture-tight container.
10. (presently amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ in which the measure that is taken so that the water content remains below 2 wt. % is providing the composition in a sufficiently air-tight container.
11. (original) Vaccine composition comprising recombinant gelatin as a stabiliser, wherein said composition has a water content of less than 2 wt. %.
12. (original) Vaccine composition according to claim 11 which is at least 3 months old.
13. (original) Method for the preparation of a vaccine composition comprising recombinant or synthetic gelatin as a stabiliser, said method comprising the steps of (a) producing recombinant or synthetic bi-modal or multi-modal gelatin, (b) adding said gelatin to a vaccine composition as stabiliser, and (c) lyophilizing said vaccine composition, whereby crystallisation of the recombinant gelatin is prevented during the lifetime of the composition.

14. (original) Vaccine composition comprising recombinant or synthetic gelatin as a stabiliser, wherein said gelatin is bi-modal or multi-modal.
15. (original) Vaccine composition according to claim 14, wherein the amino acid sequences of said gelatin are essentially similar.
16. (original) Method for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one therapeutic protein and further comprising recombinant or synthetic gelatin as a stabiliser, said method comprising the step of taking a measure so that the water content remains below 2 wt. % in order to prevent the recombinant gelatin from crystallisation during the lifetime of the composition.
17. (original) Pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one therapeutic protein and further comprising recombinant or synthetic gelatin as a stabiliser, wherein said composition has a water content of less than 2 wt. %.
18. (new) Method according to claim 2 in which the molecular weight of the recombinant gelatin is between 2.5 and 50 kD, preferably between 2.5 and 30 kD, and more preferably between 2.5 and 15 kD.
19. (new) Method according to claim 2 in which the molecular weight of the recombinant gelatin is between 5 and 10 kD, preferably between 6 and 8 kD.
20. (new) Method according to claim 2, wherein the amino acid sequences of said gelatin are essentially similar.